

WI-283

c. 1840, c. 1880

John Willing and Company Store
Nanticoke vicinity
Private

Standing on the north side of the road that connects the main road through Nanticoke with the old river wharf, the John W. Willing store is an indication of the formerly busy commercial nature of this now quiet dirt road. The store was built to taken advantage of the local needs of Nanticoke residents, but it is advantageously sited to serve those passengers traveling by way of the Chesapeake bay steamboats and stopping at the Nanticoke wharf. The nineteenth century store has survived relatively unchanged with a late nineteenth century front section disguising an older rear wing that dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The rear section retains a few remnant beaded weatherboards. The Victorian storefront is distinguished by a pair of bay windows that flank a center double-leaf entrance. The doors retains diagonally battened fronts.

John W. Willing operated this store during the second half of the nineteenth century and is listed as a merchant in the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, published in 1877.⁽¹⁾ He owned 150 acres of land, and is listed in the 1870 U. S. Census for Wicomico County as a 30-year old farmer with real estate valued at \$5,000. His store business is featured is the listed among the commercial references as John Willing and Co., "Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions and all articles kept in a country store."

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: John W. Willing Store

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-283

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture
Commerce
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):
Agricultural/Industrial Transition
1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Store

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-283

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John W. Willing Store

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Nanticoke Wharf Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Patricia Pepper

street & number Red Hill Lane telephone no.:

city, town Nanticoke state and zip code Maryland 21840

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, Parcel 541
liber 843

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 899

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John W. Willing store stands along Nanticoke Wharf Road at its intersection with a private road. The building has a southern exposure with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in two distinct stages, the historic section of the Willing store is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable-front roof of the front section, dating around 1880-1900, is covered with asphalt shingles as are the shed roofed sections that extend to each side. Attached to the back of the main block is a bi-level, one-room plan frame structure of earlier construction and probably dating around 1825-1850. A third section of more recent construction is attached to the northwest corner of the store and is a single-story structure with a low pitched gable roof.

The south (main) elevation of the late nineteenth century store is a symmetrical facade with a center entrance and flanking bay windows. The double front door is distinguished by diagonal battened leafs. The flanking bays are three sides with sash windows in each face. The entrance and bay windows are sheltered by a shed roof porch supported on chamfered posts. Fixed above the shed roof is a boarded over window opening. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and board soffit. The side sheds are marked by closed shutters that are secured by diagonal iron bars.

The north (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by the bi-level frame structure that is sheathed with plain weatherboards aside from a few remnant boards with a beaded edge. The window openings on each side are covered with board shutters fastened with diagonal shutter bars. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice, and the flush gable end is trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

Attached to the northwest corner of the nineteenth century store is a mid twentieth century single-story frame addition sheathed with plain weatherboards and covered by a low pitched gable roof.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Standing on the north side of the road that connects the main road through Nanticoke with the old river wharf, the John W. Willing store is an indication of the formerly busy commercial nature of this now quiet dirt road. The store was built to taken advantage of the local needs of Nanticoke residents, but it is advantageously sited to serve those passengers traveling by way of the Chesapeake bay steamboats and stopping at the Nanticoke wharf. The nineteenth century store has survived relatively unchanged with a late nineteenth century front section disguising an older rear wing that dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The rear section retains a few remnant beaded weatherboards. The Victorian storefront is distinguished by a pair of bay windows that flank a center double-leaf entrance. The doors retains diagonally battened fronts.

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The Willing store is particularly significant as a well preserved example of rural commercial architecture dating from the mid to late nineteenth century. The building deserves listing in *Category A*, and it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

1 John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, p. 50.

2 Ninth census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule, Wicomico County, Tyaskin District, John W. Willing, Delmarva Research Center of History and Culture.

3 Graham, p. 12,

TYASKINDist. No. 3
WICOMICO CO.**TYASKIN DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

W. J. CATLIN, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. All calls promptly attended to. Res. and Office at Belgrade Farm. P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

W. D. HEATH, Dealer in Groceries, Hardware, Tobacco, Liquor, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

NOAH J. TILGEMAN, Proprietor of "Tyaskin Mills." Manufacturer of Corn-meal, Hominy, and all kinds of Lumber. Custom work done in sawing and grinding.

J. E. B. HORN, Owner of the fine Sloop "James Wesley." All kinds of freighting done to and from any point on the "Chesapeake Bay," or its tributaries. Especial Attention to the purchase and freighting of Oysters. Res. and P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

J. W. WINGATE, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Confectionery, Wines, Whiskies, Brandy and Rum, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store. Whitehaven.

WARE WINRIGHT, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions, &c., and all goods usually kept in a country store. Whitehaven P. O.

W. G. & J. Q. TILGEMAN, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Cutlery, Tobacco, Cigars, Notions, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

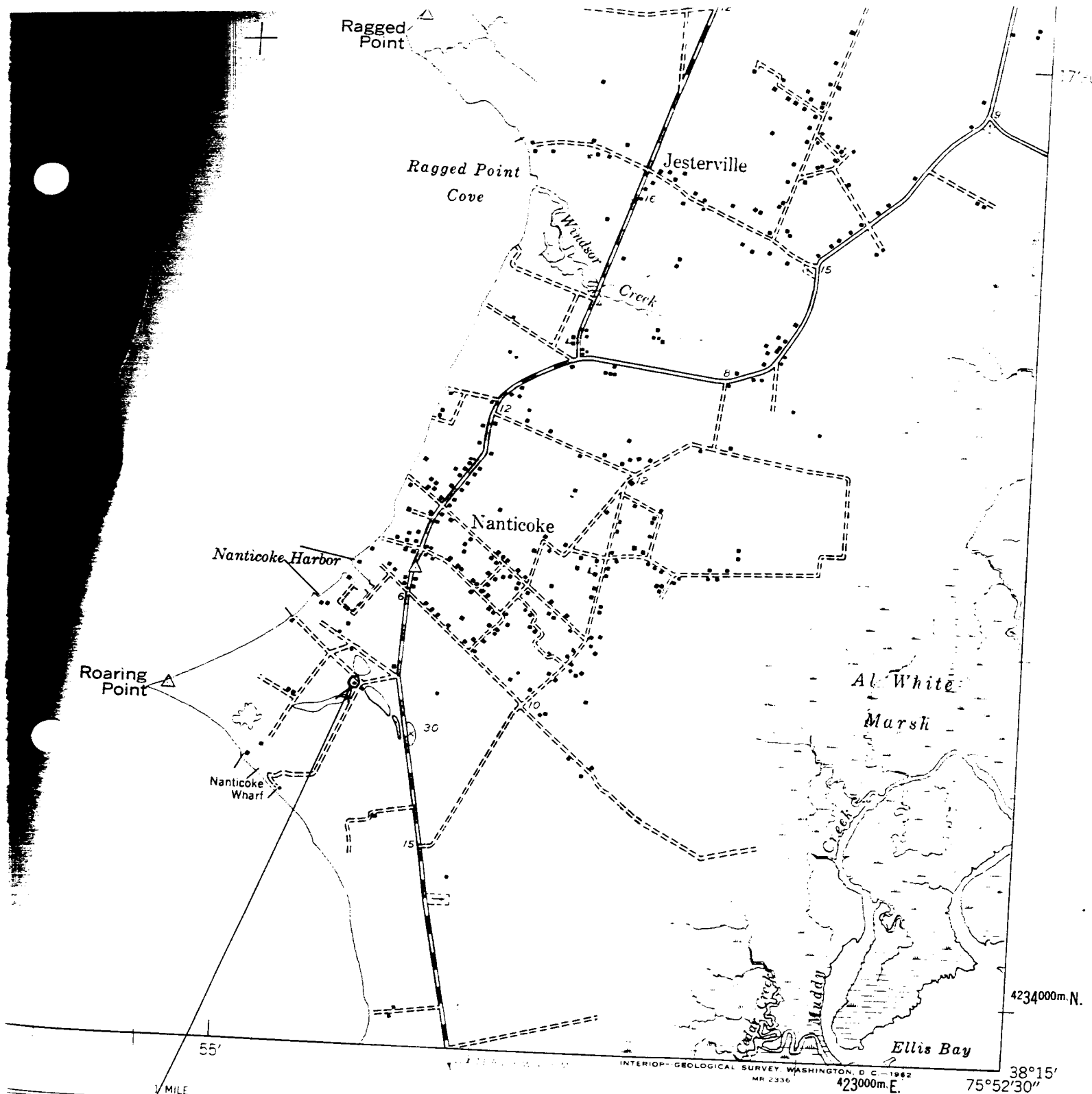
JOHN WILLING AND CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions and all articles usually kept in a country store. Nanticoke P. O.

S. A. LANGRALL, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store. Store near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

JNO. TURNER AND SON, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Boots, Shoes, &c. Nanticoke, Md.

J. A. CONNWAY, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Res. near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

J. E. ELLIOTT, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Extracts, Patent Medicines, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a first class country store. Store at Green Hill.



WI-283
 John Willing and Company Store
 Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium duty ——— Light-duty ———

Unimproved dirt - - - - -

State Route ———

NANTICOKE, MD.
 SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942

D. C.
 N REQUEST







